

36

1985-2020
years of fighting poverty



GUK

ANNUAL
REPORT

2020



গণ উন্নয়ন কেন্দ্র
Gana Unnayan Kendra

Annual Report

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Acronyms

BDT	Bangladesh Taka
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CFGs	Cattle Farming Groups
CFSs	Child Friendly Spaces
CHV	Community Health Volunteer
CWDs	Children With Disabilities
DAE	Department of Agriculture Extension
DFID	Department for International Development
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EWG	Election Working Group
FC	Farmers' Club
FDMNs	Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals
FIR	First Investigation Report
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
GOs	Government Organisations
GUKIET	GUK Institute of Engineering and Technology
IFGs	Integrated Farming Groups
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
IYCF	Infant Young Child Feeding
MBG	Milk Business Group
MFIs	Micro Finance Institutions
MNS	Manobadhikar Nari Samaj
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPO	Monthly Payment Order
MSP	Manobadhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad
NFPE	Non Formal Primary Education
NNPC	Nari Nirjaton Protirodh Committee
NGOs	Non Government Organisations
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
PKSF	Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation
PVCA	Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
RTI	Right to Information
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

SEIP	Skills for Employment Investment Programme
SHG	Self Help Group
SOD	Standing Order on Disaster
SMC	School Management Committee
UDMC	Union Disaster Management Committee
UFPO	Union Federation Producers' Organisation
UHC	Upazila Health Complex
UNO	Upazila Nirbahi Officer
UP	Union Parishad
USD	United States Dollar
WASH	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
WDMC	Ward Disaster Management Committee
WHD	Women Help Desk





Chairperson's Foreword

This is my immense pleasure that GUK is going to publish the Annual Report for the year 2020. We are passing through an unexpected situation due to COVID-19 pandemic which has wrecked lives and economies all over the world that we never face. In addressing the fall-outs, governments, NGOs, private sectors and general people have had to struggle with the simultaneous challenges of lives and livelihoods. We definitely recognize the enormous support and cooperation we received from the local administrations, donor agencies, civil society people, local government institutions and community people which was very useful behind our success. I also appreciate and thank GUK General Council as well as Executive Committee members as they always play vital role staying behind the scene which inspire all who are associated with the success of the organization.

I cannot but praise the GUK Management Team members as they always play supportive role and guide the staff members that inspire them to perform their duties efficiently and smoothly. I highly appreciate GUK staff members who are the main force to make the year 2020 a success even it was very challenging due to the pandemic situation.

We don't know how long we will have to be with this pandemic; however, we wish that the situation will get normal soon and the people around the world will go back to their usual life.



Anup Kumar Sarker
Chairperson



Message from the Founder and Chief Executive

We all are going through a critical situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic started to outbreak around the globe at the beginning of the year 2020. The Covid-19 has brought a dramatic slowdown in the overall life style and economy of the world. Bangladesh has also been affected by this crisis. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, GUK alike all other organisations has experienced huge challenges to carry out its regular activities. However, as a humanitarian organisation, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) in close collaboration with district and upazila administration as well as health department, is involved in supporting COVID-19 affected poor people from the very beginning. Initially, GUK started to raise awareness among mass people about COVID-19, afterwards, provided food and hygiene materials to severely impacted poor families especially in northern region as well as installed permanent and temporary hand washing stations at different public places and office premises with the purpose to curb the virus.

We are very pleased that we are going to publish the annual report-2020 amidst the pandemic situation. We have tried to brief our programmes and key achievements in the report to show the audience a synopsis of our activities. It is difficult for us to accomplish activities without having cordial cooperation from the community people, government officials, civil society people, local government bodies, development partners, private sectors, other relevant stakeholders and the programme participants.

Therefore, I sincerely acknowledge their tremendous support and express heartiest gratitude to all of them for extending cooperation that helped us to make the year successful. I also thank all of our General Council and Executive Committee members for providing all-out cooperation. Finally, I recognize the combined effort of our colleagues which is a prime factor to achieve the success during the pandemic situation.

We sincerely request everyone to let us know if there is any feedback/suggestion that may reduce our limitations in future.

M. Abdus Salam

Founder & Chief Executive

GUK at a Glance

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) started its journey in 1985 as a community led non-government Organisation with the aim to establish a poverty free equitable society. The Organisation works with vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of people to bring a sustainable improvement in their lives. The Organisation is working with the aim to bring a sustainable improvement in the lives of disadvantaged poor people through implementing different integrated programmes focusing on Livelihood & Food Security, Education & Child Protection, Disaster Risk Reduction & Emergency Response, Climate Change Adaptation, Safe Migration, Inclusive Financing, Women Empowerment, Human Rights, Good Governance, Skills Development & Job Placement of Youths, Health, Nutrition & WASH, Disability Inclusive Development, Agriculture & Market Linkage, Research & Policy Influence etc.

Legal Status

GUK is Registered With the Following Authorities of Bangladesh Government

1. Directorate of Social Service	2. NGO Affairs Bureau
3. Micro Credit Regulatory Authority	4. Bangladesh Election Commission

Vision

GUK envisions a poverty free equitable society where justice, equality, human rights and dignity of all people are ensured.

Mission

Inspired by credo "Release not Relief", GUK works with and for poor, extreme poor, vulnerable, excluded and all other disadvantaged groups of people especially women, children, ethnic groups and person with disability to bring about a sustainable positive change in their lives.

Strategic Objectives

Human resource development and sustainable institutions building	Community resilience on disaster management focusing climate change
Quality education for all children	Health, nutrition and WASH
Sustainable livelihood for poor and extreme poor	Good governance and democratic environment
Gender equality and women empowerment	Action research and innovation.



Cross Cutting Issues

Following are the cross cutting issues of GUK and it considers these issues with high priority during designing or implementation any project.

Gender	Disability and ethnic minority
Child Protection	Climate Change & DRR

Core Values

Confidence and belief in the liberation war and independence of Bangladesh;	Zero tolerance towards Gender Based Violence and financial misconduct;
Humanity, respect and honor to all people;	Group initiative and Learning from others;
Responsibility, accountability and transparency;	Honesty, faithfulness,, sincerity and cost effectiveness;
Equal feelings towards all irrespective of race, religion, caste and special attention to the most vulnerable and persons with disabilities at all times;	Consciousness to environment, nature and ecology.

Governance and Management

GUK has transparent and accountable governance system consisting General Council, Executive Committee and experienced & committed Programme Management Team.

• General Council

GUK has a General Council (GC) consisting of 25 members which is the highest authority of the organisation. Presently 56% of total members in the GC are women. Usually members of the General Council meet once in a year where discussions held about different strategies, audit and major activities of the year. The General Council is also responsible for selection of Executive Committee members.

• Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (EC) of GUK consisting 07 members elected for every 03 years by the General Council. Meetings of the Executive Committee held 4 times in a year. The Executive Committee supports the "Programme Management Team" for smooth implementation of activities. The executive Committee is responsible to the General Committee.

• Programme Management Team

GUK has a Programme Management Team (PMT) consisting 9 senior members from different individual units. Members of this team have strong leadership quality, proven experiences and commitment. Chief Executive of the organisation leads the programme management team. This team is responsible for strategic direction to implement programme activities smoothly. This team also maintains communication and liaison with government, people's representatives and development partners.

Human Resource

There is a friendly working environment at GUK. So, a team of committed, skilled and well experienced staff members are working in different sectors in the Organisation for a long period of time. Below table shows the position wise staff status.

Position	Female	Male	Total
Senior Management level	02	7	09
Mid-level Management	12	23	35
Field level Management	37	72	109
Field level staff	538	597	1135
Support Staff	09	30	39
Temporary staff	485	424	909
Total	1083	1153	2236

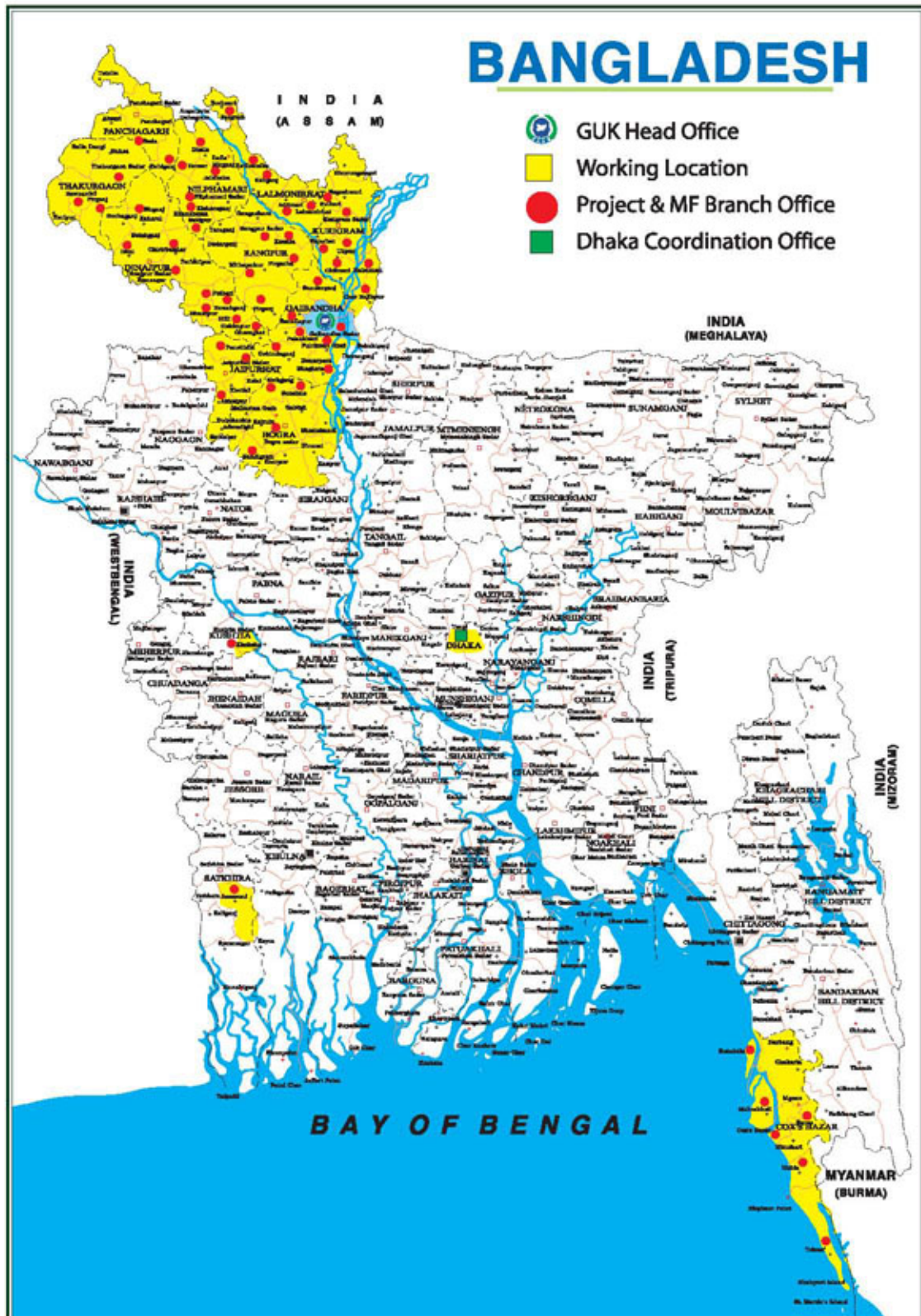
In addition, there are 500 trained volunteers whom GUK engage its emergency response activities during any disaster. Besides, they also provide voluntary service when the Organisation arranges any big event.



GUK Head Office

Geographical Coverage

Presently the Organisation is working in 13 districts across Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna and Chattogram divisions including Rohingya Refugee camps as well as host community in Ukhiya, and Teknaf Upazila of Cox's Bazar district. In addition, GUK has established and operating 30 educational institutions in the remote areas of Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Panchagarh and Kushtia districts.





Development Programme Participant

GUK always gives priority for inclusion of the following group of people in its development interventions.

- Poor, Extreme Poor Female and Male;
- Persons and Children with Disabilities;
- Ethnic People;
- Marginalized Farmers;
- Children, Adolescents and Youth;
- Disadvantaged people living in the vulnerable and hard to reach locations.

Organisational Division for Eradicating Poverty & Empowering People



Women Led Community Centre (WLCC),
Ulkhya, Cox's Bazar.

High Lights of the Year

1. GUK has Launched De-Addiction & Rehabilitation Centre in Gaibandha

On the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, with the aim of building a drug-addiction free peaceful and dignified society, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) has established a De Addiction & Rehabilitation Centre in Gaibandha this year. Honorable Whip of Bangladesh National Parliament Ms. Mahabub Ara Begum Gini MP inaugurated the 'GUK De Addiction & Rehabilitation Centre' on 5th March, 2020 while present as the chief guest in the launching ceremony. In addition, honorable Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha Mr. Abdul



Matin, Additional Police Super Mr. Moynul Haque, Civil Surgeon Dr. ABM Abu Hanif and Mayor of Gaibandha municipality Mr. Shah Masud Jahangir Kabir Milon were present as special guest in the inauguration ceremony. Moreover, officials from different government departments, electronic & print media representatives and civil society members were also present among others. GUK aims to bring back the drug addicts to the mainstream of the society through rehabilitation and creating employment opportunity for them.

2. Celebration of 35th Anniversary



Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) celebrated its 35th anniversary on 1st January, 2020. To mark the day colourful programmes as well as winter cake (pitha) festival were arranged at the premises of GUK head office at Nashratpur, Gaibandha. Honorable Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha Mr. Abdul Matin cut the anniversary cake and expressed greetings. Government officials, Bankers, Development Activists and civil society members were present as invited guests in the event.

3. GUK Award

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) launched 'GUK Award' in 2018 to recognize individuals for contributing various sectors of social development. In the launching year the organisation awarded 3 renowned persons of Gaibandha for their outstanding contribution in teaching, cultural field and health service in the year 2017. In 2020, GUK awarded 6 distinguished personnel for the year 2018 and 2020 respectively. Professor Firoza Begum, Journalist Mr. Gobindalal Das and Rhymist Mr. Abu Jafar Sabu received the award for the year 2018 for their tremendous contribution in the field of education, journalism and literature respectively. On the other hand, Mr. Saroj Deb, Mr. Shah Moshir Rahman and Mr. Ahammad Ullah were awarded for the year 2020 for outstanding contribution in literature, music and social welfare. Honorable Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha Mr. Abdul Matin handed over crest and cheque of Tk. 15,000 to the awardees.





4. GUK in COVID-19 Response

GUK has been engaged in COVID-19 response since 20th of March, 2020 through different interventions. In close collaboration with district and upazila administration as well as health department, following initiatives was taken by GUK in 2020.

- **Awareness raising:** Reached 1 million people with awareness message in GUK working areas through distribution of leaflets, local newspaper, online TV, mike announcement, demonstration on sneezing and hand washing;
- **Installation Hand Washing Stations:** GUK has installed 75 permanent hand washing stations in northern districts and Cox's Bazar district. Moreover, 20 temporary hand washing stations were also installed;
- **Agriculture labor sent:** Total 1477 agriculture labor sent from Gaibandha to different parts of the country for harvesting the Boro paddy;
- **Food distribution:** Food items distributed among 7719 households;
- **Hygiene kits distribution:** Hygiene kits distributed among 10550 households;
- **PPE distribution:** Personal Protective Equipments (PPE) distributed to 300 Health Workers;
- **Mask distribution:** Total 200000 pieces of mask distributed;
- **Hand Gloves distribution:** 5000 pairs of Hand Gloves distributed;
- **Staff salary contribution:** 3 days salary of all staff contributed for COVID-19 response.



5. Skill Development Training & Job Placement



GUK emphasizes to strengthen skills of poor youth girls and boys from disadvantaged families to transform them as skilled human capital. For this purpose, GUK has established skill development training centre adjacent to its head office. Around 300 participants can receive residential training at a time in well equipped training venues. The organisation provides 3 months long trade based training like mobile phone servicing, garments sewing machine operation, web & graphic design, IT support service, electrical insatllation

& maintainance and facilitates the trainees for job placement. So far, around 5066 youth have been provided with training on different trades and linked with jobs in various garment factories and private companies. In addition to job placement, the trained youths who want to be self employed get loan from GUK and in some cases GUK link them with financial institutions for financial

6. 'Food Bank'-Very Useful Source of Food for the Rural Poor During Scarcity

Floods and river erosion are the common Phenomenon in the life of people living in Rowmari and Rajibpur upazila of Kurigram district. This year the Corona virus has brought new threats for them. In order to improve the living standards of the women in these disadvantaged areas, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) has been implementing 'Resilience though Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning- REE-CALL' project since 2010. By this project, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) have been formed in 35 villages of Rowmari and Rajibpur upazilas. Each CBO has an Executive Committee and the committees meet regularly to decide on various issues. As the areas are very much prone to disasters and people have to experience floods and river erosion almost every year, by the assistance of the project, the CBOs have established 'Food Banks' to address the emergency food crisis during disaster.

Each family picks up a handful of rice from their cooking rice and stores it separately in a container at home. At the end of the month, everyone gathers and deposits their deposited rice in the food bank. If a poor member has food crisis, she can borrow rice from the food bank and repay it at a convenient time. The surplus rice is sold in the market every month and deposited in the CBO's bank account. At present, there is a deposit of taka 17,58,115.00 (one million seven hundred fifty eight thousand and one hundred fifteen) in the bank accounts of the CBOs. During COVID-19 pandemic, total 2360 kg rice distributed among 236 poor families from the Food Banks to meet their emergency needs. The Food Banks have ensured emergency food security for families associated with 35 CBOs. This process will continue and as a result, poor families will not have to take loans from anyone at high interest rates. Thus, food banks are playing a vital role in addressing the food crisis of poor families in the area during a nationwide disaster.





7. Improving the Living Standards of Rural Poor and Helpless Women

To improve the economic and social standards of rural poor and helpless women in Gaibandha district "Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities (SWAPNO)" project arranged capacity building training on cow, goat/sheep, poultry and pigeon rearing, small business as well as vegetable cultivation on homestead. The training was started simultaneously in 17 unions of Saghata and Fulchhari upazilas maintaining social distance.

The project is being implemented by the Department of Local Government and Engineering with the support of Marico, Sewden SIDA and UNDP for socio-economic development of 612 women participants while GUK is working as implementing partner.

8. Adolescent Girls are Being Capacitated through Involvement with Songlap Centre

GUK is implementing a project namely 'Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity & Sustainability (SEEDS)' in Gaibandha sadar, Fulchhari and Gobindaganj upazila in collaboration with STORMME Foundation. Through this project a total of 18 Songlap Centre have been formed in three upazilas with the purpose to engage adolescent girls in different social awareness activities and develop leadership quality among them. Around 400 adolescent girls are involved with these Songlap centre. They gather in the Songlap centre on regular basis and discuss on different issues such as child marriage, Violence against Women, eve teasing, child rights & child protection, their roles and responsibilities to the family and society. A trained animator conduct sessions on these issues. The girls engaged with Songlap centres have received training/orientation on various issues like advocacy, leadership, networking etc. They are now playing active role to raise awareness on various social issues by participating in different day observations, human chain, campaign etc. They have been aware about their rights and roles through involvement with the Songlap centres and able to raise their voice. Total 750 adolescent girls are involved with 30 Songlap Centre formed in Gaibandha sadar, Fulchhari and Gobindaganj upazila.



9. ToT on Life Skill Based Education (LSBE):

Through the 'Skills for employment and Empowerment of Rural Youth (SEEP)' project, 3 days long residential Training for the Trainers (ToT) on Life Skill Based Education (LSBE) arranged at GUK training center, Nashratpur, Gaibandha. This training is provided with the purpose to enhance knowledge of project participants on different issues like self-awareness, decision making, emotional

controlling, effective communicating, inter personal relation, problems solving, negotiation, critical thinking, creative thinking, survive in mental pressure, kindness, child rights, human rights, women's rights, nutrition, reproductive health, primary health care, personal health & hygiene, birth registration, HIV AIDS, disaster etc. A total number 20 out of 20 producers group members including indigenous community received this life skill based education (LSBE). After receiving the ToT they conducted sessions on LSBE for their other project participants. After receiving this training the trainees will apply the acquired knowledge for their own life and at the community level will also discuss with producers group members to increase their life skills. The LSBE sessions are useful to enhance their confidence level and to make them able to adapt themselves in any situation.

10. GBV Survivors are Getting Various support through Women Help Desk (WHD)

A total of 1251 GBV survivors (women and girls) received legal aid support in 2020 through Women Help Desk established at Sonatala, Nandigram and Bogura sadar upazila police station and Bogura district court premises by the 'Strengthening Access to Multi-Sectoral Public Services for GBV Survivors in Bangladesh (ASTHA)' project. With the purpose to provide legal aid support to GBV survivors, Women Help Desks have been established at Sonatala, Nandigram and Sadar Upazila police station as well as Bogura district court premises. Female Police Officials are assigned at police stations while female Legal Support Officer (LSO) of the project has been assigned at WHD of at the court premises to provide support to GBV survivors so that sufferers can easily share their issues with without any hesitation. They are getting support regarding First Investigation Report (FIR), General Dairy (GD), case filing, counseling and referral support from the WHDs.



11. Established Women Led Community Centers (WLCC)



With the purpose to provide vocational and life skills training among women and adolescent girls of Rohingya and host community, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) has established 10 Women Led Community Centers (WLCC) in Ukhiya and Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar district with necessary logistics and training equipment with support of UNFPA and WFP. Through these WLCCs, women and girls from Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs) as well as affected host communities are being provided with four months long vocational training on

tailoring and capacity building training on homestead gardening. In addition, they also received life skills sessions on basic literary, health & hygiene, nutrition and Gender Based Violence (GBV). Total 2000 women and girls are being supported through this intervention and they are gradually moving towards dignified life by engaging income generating activities. Awareness sessions also conducted for men & boys of families of selected participants with the purpose to reduce violence against women. A Self Help Group (SHG) has also been formed comprising with female members from the community so that they can address different issues by themselves.



of whom parents lost income option due to COVID-19 pandemic. Food support was provided so that the children can meet their nutritional needs and continue study.

12. Food Support for Anandalok Community School Children

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) has established and operating 26 formal primary schools (Anandalok community schools) in Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Panchagar and Kustia districts. Currently, a total of 4385 children from poor families are receiving primary education (pre-primary to grade V) in these schools. GUK has provided food assistance (rice, edible oil, wheat floor, pulse, potato, sugar, salt) to 2270 children

13. Women Members of Various Projects of GUK Received the 'Jayita Award'

On the occasion of Begum Rokeya Day-2020, under the programme titled "Bangladesh in Search of Jayita", the women who are making significant contribution in various fields are given 'Jayita Award'. In 2020, six women members involved in projects being implemented in different districts by Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) received the 'Jayita Award'. They are:

- I) Hamida Begum, participant of 'Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Address Gender Based Violence and Build Community Resilience to Adopt Climate Change' project in Gaibandha Sadar upazila in 'Women who start life with new vigor by removing the horror of torture' category;
- II) Rupali Khatun from Nandigram upazila of Bogura district involved with 'Strengthening Access to Multi-Sectoral Public Services for GBV Survivors in Bangladesh (ASTHA) project in 'successful women in education and employment' category;
- III) Taslima Akter from Sonatala upazila of Bogura district associated with ASTHA project in 'economically successful woman' category;
- IV) Kalpana Khatun from Sonatala upazila of Bogura district associated with ASTHA project in 'The woman who started her life in a new way by removing the horrors of torture' category.
- V) Parvin Akhter from Bogura sadar upazila involved with ASTHA project in 'successful mother' category;
- VI) Amina Begum from Roumari upazila of Kurigram district, a member of 'Milk Producers Group' of REE CALL-2021 project in 'Economically successful woman' category.



14. Financial Assistance Provided for Income Generating Activities

A total of 180 women group members have been provided with financial assistance amounting BDT 6,75,000.00 (six lac seventy five thousand as revolving fund for income generating activities e.g. goat/sheep rearing, small business, vegetable gardening, tailoring etc. This assistance is provided through the "Strengthen Civil Society and Public Institutions to address combating Gender Based Violence and Build Community resilience to Adapt

Climate change” project. GUK is implementing the project in four unions of Gaibandha sadar and Fulchari upazila with financial support of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and technical support of Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF).

15. Rohingya Youths are Engaged with Income Generation Activities at Camp Level

A total of 100 unemployed Rohingya youths were provided with two days long training on bamboo construction work through the Solidar Suisse supported ‘Strengthening Resilience and Food Security of Rohingya Refugees and Host Communities In Bangladesh Cox’s Bazar; Teknaf Upazilla’ project implementing at Hnila Union of Teknaf Upazila in Cox’s Bazar district for livelihood improvement of both Rohingya and Host communities. After successful completion of the training, different required materials for construction work like Vest, Helmet, Gum Boot, Hand Gloves etc. are distributed among trained participants as start-up package to open the window to be involved with income generating activities as construction worker. Afterwards, the project team linked them with different actors who are assigned to implement construction related activities at camp level. According to a survey conducted later, it is evident that 65% of the trained beneficiaries are involved in the camp level construction works implementing by the CiC & Site Management. On the other hand, 35% trained participants have been self-employed using their learning from the training. They are now earning around taka 12,500 per month on an average and contributing their family.



16. Construction of Disability Inclusive Handwashing Stations in Cox’s Bazar



To curb the spread of Novel Corona virus a total of 45 disability inclusive handwashing stations with water facilities have been constructed at 45 school cum cyclone shelters in Cox’s Bazar sadar, Ramu, Teknaf, Kutubdia and Maheshkhali upazila under Cox’s Bazar district. There are 5 units in each handwashing station- 4 units for man and women and 1 unit for persons with disabilities. UNDP is implementing a 3 year project on disaster risk management in Cox’s Bazar district. GUK has constructed these HWSs through UNDP supported Disaster Risk Management programme in Cox’s Bazar. In addition, Cash for Work (CfW)

intervention for disaster risk mitigation is also implemented at Matarbari, Hoanak and Dhalghata Unions of Moheshkhali upazila under this programme.

17. Youth Forum Members are Engaged in Local Level Advocacy and Social Mobilization

A total of 152 Youth groups have been formed in three upazilas of Gaibandha district With the purpose to empower youths and create social cohesion engaging them in different social activities. Total 5000 youths (including students, youths from dalit community, Youth with Disabilities, Trans-gender, Youths who are in work) are involved with these groups and they have been provided with different capacity building training, orientation, leadership training, Life Skills training & sessions, IGA training,





awareness sessions and skills development training. They are now aware on different issues. Leadership quality among them developed and volunteerism attitude grown by receiving training & sessions. They are now playing active role voluntarily to contribute in the society.

18. Assistance Provided to the Cyclone Amphan Affected People



In collaboration with German based organisation AWO International GUK provided emergency assistance to the Cyclone Amphan affected people in Satkhira district. A total of 1500 most affected families of Protapnagar union under Assasuni upazila of the district have been provided with food items to meet their emergency needs. Hygiene materials are also provided to these families so that they can keep themselves safe from COVID-19 infection.



Programme Overview

Social Development Programme

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) undertakes different development as well as humanitarian interventions under the social development programme. Livelihood & Food Security, Education & Child Protection, Disaster Risk Reduction & Emergency Response, Climate Change Adaptation, Inclusive Financing, Women Empowerment, Human Rights, Good Governance, Skills Development & Job Placement of Youths, Health, Nutrition & WASH, Disability Inclusive Development, Agriculture & Market Linkage, Research & Policy Influence etc. are the major focus area of this programme.

Strategic Objective-1: Human Resource Development and Sustainable Institution Building

Case Story

Rumina- a Girl from Indigenous Community is now Engaged with Decent Job

'I am very proud as I am now engaged with a decent job and earning money which me or my family could not even think'-Rumina Murmu says. She also added, 'I am from an indigenous poor community living in a village of Gobindaganj upazila in Gaibandha district. My father is a day labour and only he was the bread earner of five members' family. We have no a single piece of land, even we live in a small hut on other's place. Hence, it was so difficult for my father to maintain the family expenditure by his limited income. I am the eldest among my siblings and amongst this kind of poverty, I tried to continue my study but could not after S.S.C due to financial crisis. Me and my mother used to work as day labor sometimes to support my father. In this circumstance, I came to know that GUK is implementing the project 'Skills for Employment and Empowerment of Rural Youth (SEEP)' through which skills training on 'Garments Sewing Machine Operation' will be provided for youth. I become interested to take this opportunity as I was thinking to do something for my family. Afterwards, I was selected as a trainee and received three months long residential training at GUK which was free of cost. After completion of the training, GUK project team supported me to get the job.



I joined as an "Assistant operator" at Dutch-Bangla Pac Ltd. in Munshiganj district on November 20, 2020. Presently, I am getting salary of BDT 8,300 per month and sending BDT 4,000 for my family in each month. I am now fully confident to build up a bright future. I have a plan to purchase a piece of land for living. I also want to support for continuing my younger siblings' education. I am very grateful to GUK for providing this kind of support which brought a remarkable change in my life."

**Key Achievements:****Formation of Producer Groups**

Through the project 'Skills for Employment and Empowerment of Rural Youth (SEEP)', a total of 20 groups have been formed consisting 15 youth girls in each group. Total number of selected girls is 300 who are from extreme poor families including indigenous community. There are one President, one Secretary, one Cashier and one Entrepreneur in each group. They have been provided with skills training on entrepreneurship and business management for operation of group-based business.

Market Oriented Skills Training Provided

Three months long non-residential training on different market demanded trades like Jute bag making, Karchupi, Cap making, Block butik, sweater making etc. have been provided to 210 youth girls of Gaibandha sadar, Palashbale and Gobindaganj upazila of Gaibandha district who are associated with 20 producer groups formed by the 'Skills for Employment and Empowerment of Rural Youth (SEEP)' project. Group wise skills training on selected trades conducted by hired resource persons and they will be provided with start-up capital support by the project.

Support Trained Youths for Job Placement

Total 75 youths received three months long residential skills training on various trades e.g. garments sewing machine operation and Electrical Maintenance & Installation in 2020 through different project interventions. These trainings were arranged at GUK training center in Nashratpur, Gaibandha. The trained youths are also facilitated for job placement including salaried job as well as self-employment.

Training Organised for Capacity Building

Training/orientation for capacity building of people associated with organisation's programmes organised through different project interventions. Project participants including Group leaders of different forums, associations, youth groups and/or different committees received these trainings. A total of 3678 women and men received capacity building training on different issues in this reporting year. Knowledge of participants enhanced by receiving these training and they have been able to play role for development in the community.

Interventions Implemented Under This Strategic Objective in 2020

SI #	Project Title	Supported by
01	Skill for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP)	PKSF
02	Resilience though Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning- REE-CALL-2021	Oxfam-GB
03	Trans boundary River for Our Sustainable Advancement (TROSAs)	Oxfam-GB
04	Skills for Employment and Empowerment of Rural Youth Project (SEEP)	ICCO Cooperation
05	Women Led Community Centre	UNFPA & WFP
06	Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity and Sustainability (SEEDS)	STROMME Foundation
07	Youth Empowerment for Economic Emancipation and Social Cohesion (YES)	Manusher Jonno Foundation

08	Empowering Small holders to Strengthen Local Democratic Governance (KHAMATAYAN)	Christian Aid
09	Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Build Community Resilience to Adopt Climate Change	Manusher Jonno Foundation

Major Activities Performed

Sl #	Activity Type	2020	2019
01	Trade based skills training for youths	75	297
02	Job placement	61	210
03	Counseling sessions on work place environment, health hygiene etc. for trained youths	6	-
04	Arrange training on entrepreneurship development for the selected youths	20	11
05	Arrange business management training for the trained youths	210	125
06	Organize training on group development & management	40	-
07	Arrange ToT on life skills for selected youths	20	-
08	Arrange life skills/soft skills training for selected youths	2500	7000
09	Organised leadership training for youths	568	225
10	Organise capacity building training (agriculture and livestock) for Community Service Providers (CSP)	34	-
11	Formation of Upazilla youth forum	3	-
12	Organized quarterly meeting with Upazila youth forum	9	-
13	Arrange community meeting for sensitizing about Shonglap	12	-
14	Arrange Basic training for Shonglap Animator	12	-
15	Facilitate adolescent girls to form Adolescent Small Groups (ASGs)	120	-
16	Arrange training for ASGs on FDP & SRG formation process	48	-
17	Facilitate ASGs to involve in FDP preparation & Implementation	48	-
18	Facilitate Adolescents to organise different social awareness campaign in the community	24	-
19	Facilitate adolescent to develop their own career plan by vision exercise	297	-
20	Provide Agro based IGA training to shonglap adolescent	297	-
21	Adolescent (girls) Songlap Centre formed	12	18
22	Workshop	19	67





Strategic Objective-2: Quality Education for All Children

With the purpose to create an enabling environment for education of all children, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) is implementing different interventions since 1989. Interventions implemented by the organisation in this regard include formal & non-formal primary, secondary and technical education. In addition, GUK also undertake intervention for adult education to reduce illiteracy rate in the poor community. Another key focus of GUK education programme is 'inclusive education'. Currently, the organisation is operating following educational institutions which have created access to education for children from marginalized families.

1. Pre-primary School
2. NFPE (Non-formal Primary Education) School
3. Formal Primary School (Anandolok community schools and others, pre-primary to grade V)
4. Secondary School
5. Technical & Vocational institution

Moreover, with the purpose to improve capacity and quality of education, GUK is working with 38 government primary schools and providing technical support.

GUK is also Implementing Following Education Projects:

Sl #	Project Title	Supported by
01	Basic Literacy Project (64 districts)	Ministry of Primary & Mass Education, GoB
02	Out of School Children Education Program	Ministry of Primary & Mass Education, GoB
03	Future Oriented Quality Education in Disaster Prone areas in Bangladesh	NETZ Bangladesh
04	Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity and Sustainability (SEEDS)	STROMME Foundation

Key Achievements:

Pre-primary School

GUK is operating 10 pre-primary schools to provide education to the children from poor families in the hard to reach areas in Gaibandha district. Total 274 (girls-179, boys-95) children (age 5+) are getting pre-primary education in a friendly environment in these schools.

Non-Formal Primary School

Currently, GUK is operating 9 Non-formal Primary Education (NFPE) centres with its own initiative in Gaibandha district for providing primary education to the drop-out children from marginalized families living in the remote areas of Gaibandha district. A total of 270 (girls-133, boys-137) children are receiving primary education.

Formal Primary School

GUK is operating 26 formal primary schools (Anandolok community schools) in the remote areas of Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Panchagarh and Kushtia districts. These schools have been named in the name of renowned personalities of Bangladesh like Begum Rokeya Anandalok School, Kabi Sufia Kamal Anandalok School, Rabindranath Anandalok School, Dr. Mofizar Rahman Anandalok School etc. With the purpose to make rural people aware about language history, Shahid Minar (Monument) have been constructed in the premises of all these schools. Presently, a total of 4385 (girls-2148 boys-2237) children from poor families are receiving primary education (pre-primary to grade V) in these schools.

Secondary School

The organisation has established three secondary schools namely Kunderpara Gana Unnayan Academy, GUK Junior High School and Chandershar Secondary school in the remote locations of Gaibandha district. Chandershar secondary school and Kunderpara Gana Unnayan Academy have already been enlisted in the government MPO. More than 1500 students from hard to reach areas are studying in these schools at present.

Support to Government Primary Schools

GUK is providing technical support to 38 mainstreaming government primary schools in Gaibandha sador, Fulchari and Gobindaganj upazila for improving their capacity and quality of education. Consequently, dropout rate has been reduced in these schools and quality of education also improved as well.

Adults' Literacy

The organisation is implementing 'Basic Literacy Project (64 districts)' project in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha district with the support of Ministry of Primary and Mass Education of Bangladesh government. A total of 340 learning centres have been established by the project through which total 20400 illiterate adults (women-10200, men-10200) will receive education on basic literacy.

Supplementary Food Support for Anandolok School Children

GUK provided supplementary food support to all children studying in it's Anandolok community primary schools. The children received supplementary food (egg, edible oil and wheat flour) at their home due to closure of schools for COVID-19 pandemic. This support is provided to help them to maintain nutrition so that they can pay heed to study.

Health Camp Organised for Anandalok School Children

Health camps are organized for Anandolok school children and they are provided with free medicine support. In some cases, referral support for better treatment is also provided. Family members of school children are also provided health support through these camps. Generally health camps are organized twice a year in each school. However, due to COVID-19 pandemic, in this reporting year, health camps are organisaed once in all Anandalok schools.

Case Story

Harlal Roy Anandolok School — a Hub of Primary Education for Marginalised Children



GUK established a Community Anandolok primary school in the village of Nimoskhana in Domarupazila of Nilphamari district. The school has been named after Harlal Roy Anandalok School. There was less opportunity of primary education for children from marginalized families living in the hard to reach areas in the village of Nimoskhana. Once the children of the village had to become sufferer of child marriage and child labor. Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) has established a formal Community Anandalok primary school in the village in 2013 through NETZ Bangladesh supported education project for ensuring quality education for children from poor families. The

school is situated a suitable environment surrounding by various trees. Presently, a total of 195 children (girls-87, boys-108) are studying in this school from pre-primary to grade-IV.

Teachers of the school are well trained and they are able to teach in innovative ways. There is very pleasant education environment for children. In addition to academic learning, the children participate in different extracurricular activities on regular basis. A Shahid Minar (Monument) has also been established at the premises of the school with the purpose to pay homage to language

martyr and make rural people aware about language history. The School Management Committee (SMC) is very active as initiatives are taken by GUK to enhance capacity of SMC members and raising awareness among parents. As a result of establishing this school, child marriage and child labor has been reduced in that area. It has been a hope of better life of children of the village.

Activities Performed

Sl #	Facts	2020	2019
01	Pre-Primary Schools	20	09
02	Non-Formal Primary Education	09	30
03	Anandalok Community Schools	26	26
04	Number of students in GUK pre-primary, NFPE and formal (Anandalok community) schools	4969	5392
05	Technical assistance Provided to govt. primary schools	38	30
06	New students enrolled in Anandalok Community Schools	759	722
07	Training for teachers organized	92	132
08	Meeting organized with govt. education officials, SMC members, CMC members and parents)	694	1035
09	Health camp organised for Anandalok children	26	52
10	Orientation for SMC members	23	23
11	Education material distribution	4385	4385
12	Session for pre-students parents arranged	26	26
13	Students Council (SC) Election	23	56
14	Orientation for SC members	23	56
15	NCTB book collection & distribution	3868	3744
16	Annual sports organised	26	26
17	Training on extra-curricular activities (Bratachari) for Anandalok teachers	26	-
18	Formation of parents forum at Anandalok schools	26	-
19	Formation of Alamni (Samprity) for ex-students of Anandalok schools	26	-





Strategic Objective-3: Sustainable Livelihood for Poor and Extreme Poor

Case Story

A Story of Defeating Poverty

Once Firoza Begum (49) used to work in other's house. Her husband Golzar Hossain used to catch fish and sell in the monsoon and used to go to Dhaka / Tangail to work as a day laborer for other time. In 2014, Firoza Begum was selected as a member of 'Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning (REE-CALL)' project implementing by GUK in Rowmari and Rajibpur upazila of Kurigram district in collaboration with OXFAM. She Participated in various trainings including income generating activities organized by the project. Later, as she was interested in milking cow rearing, she became a member of 'Shurjomukhi Milk Producer Group' and received special training on cow rearing from the project. In 2015, she received taka 15,000 from the project and adding her own taka 46,000 she bought a cross-bred cow with a calf for a total of tk. 61,000 (sixty one thousand).



Some days later, she sold the calf for taka 40,000 and took loan of taka 30,000 and again bought another cow with a calf at the cost taka 80,000 (eighty thousand). Again the previous cow gave birth to calf and she gets 40 liters of milk per day on an average from the two cows. With the money from selling milk, she managed to feed the cows and maintained family expenditure well. The number of her cows gradually increased. Currently, she has 6 cows and 8 calves of which present market value is around taka 13,00,000 (one million and three hundred thousand). In addition, 5 cows will give birth again. She is currently getting an average of 40 liters of milk per day from the cows, and earning about taka 1,600 a day. She has been linked with Upazila Livestock office through the project. Now if there is any problem with the cow, she herself contacts the Livestock Officer. She bought 33 decimal of land from the income from selling milk and gave marriage their son and daughter. Her son is currently studying B.A. (Hons) at Kurigram Government College. She has become self-sufficient by overcoming poverty and is living happily with her family. Her dignity has been increased in the family as well as in the society.

Like Firoza Begum, 180 families of flood prone Baishpara village in Bandaber union of Rowmari upazila are currently involved in cow rearing where the total number of cows is 400 and around 1200 liters of milk is being produced daily. Firoza Begum is currently performing as the President of 'Shurjomukhi Milk Producer Group'. "We are proud because we are earning, our opinions are valued in the family and in the society, and above all we are living a dignified life," she said.

Interventions Implemented Under This Strategic Objective in 2020

Sl #	Project Title	Supported by
01	Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities (SWAPNO)	UNDP
02	Women Led Community Centre (Skills development for Rohingya and host community women and girls)	UNFPA & WFP
03	Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning- REE-CALL-2021	Oxfam-GB



04	Skill for Employment Investment Programme (SEIP)	PKSF
05	Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Build Community Resilience to Adopt Climate Change	Manusher Jonno Foundation
06	Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity and Sustainability (SEEDS)	STROMME Foundation
07	Skills for Employment and Empowerment of Rural Youth Project (SEEP)	ICCO Cooperation
08	Strengthening Community Resilience through Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management (DiDRM) in Urban and Rural areas in Bangladesh	CBM & CDD
09	Strengthening resilience and food security of Rohingya refugees and host communities in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar	Solidar Suisse
10	Development and Delivery of Biofortified Crops at Scale	CIP

Key Achievements:

Capacity Building Training Organised

GUK provides capacity building training to project participants for enhancing their skills on different Income Generating Activities (IGAs). These training include homestead vegetable gardening, cattle (cow, goat, sheep) farming, poultry rearing, climate adaptive agriculture technology, business plan and management etc. A total of 6970 female and male participants received capacity building training in this reporting year. Knowledge participants are enhanced by receiving these type of training and they can contribute in their family income which help them to have sustainable livelihoods.

Linkage With Financial Institutions

The organisation sometimes provides start up capital support through the project intervention and sometimes link the beneficiaries with different financial institutions for financial assistance. For this purpose GUK organises workshops with financial service providers including banks. Consequently, a total of 197 beneficiaries have received loan support from banks and other financial institutions amounting BDT 1,24,39,433.00 (twelve million four hundred thirty nine thousand and four hundred thirty three) this year.

Nursery Establishment for Vine Multiplication of Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato

A total of 150 nurseries have been established for vine multiplication of Orange Flashed Sweet Potato in this reporting period by the 'Development and Delivery of Biofortified Crops at Scale' Project' in 5 upazilas of Gaibandha, Kurigram and Rangpur districts. Four BARI released varieties e.g. BARI SP 4, BARI SP 8, BARI SP 12, BARI SP 15, were produced in the nurseries.



Established Commercial IGA Villages

GUK has established 6 commercial IGA villages through the project 'Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity and Sustainability (SEEDS)' in 6 unions of Gaibandha sadar, Fulchari and Gobindaganj upazila under Gaibandha district. Total 2500 project participants (Self Reliance Group (SRG) members) are directly involved with this initiative collectively by following their Production and sales planning management (PSPM). The SRG members discuss among them about the situation and context and also their ability to promote IGAs and commercial IGA village considering the season and local context following the market demands. Then they select the products for cultivation based on discussion among themselves. Then they analyze the process and support of service providers discussing with the concern. They also make a projection of profit at the end also the roles and responsibility of individuals during the implementing period. To do the initiative smoothly, they prepare a joint plan accordingly. Through this process, the project participants are hopeful to get significant benefit by producing different products collectively.

Orientation Provided on ZWM, i-SME and usage of bio digester to Dairy Enterprises

GUK organized orientation on Zero Waste Model (ZWM), i-SME as well as usage of bio digester for Dairy Enterprises (DEs) developed by the REECALL project in Rowmari and Rajibpur upazila of Kurigram district. Selected 125 beneficiaries (female-121, male-4) received the daylong orientation facilitated by hired resource person from Bangladesh SME Corporation Limited (BSCL). By receiving this orientation the participants have gathered knowledge on i-SME registration, agent banking account opening, zero waste model and finance literacy. Each beneficiary has completed i-SME registration and opened bank account.

Activities Performed

Sl #	Facts	2020	2019
01	Capacity building training (IGA management, small business, agricultural production etc) for project participants	3514	6102
02	Organized linkage building meeting with input and output actors	75	-
03	Organize training on capacity building to CSP (Agriculture)	20	-
04	Organize training on capacity building to CSP (Livestock).	20	-
05	Organize training on record keeping and fund management of SRG members	26	26
06	Facilitate Families to form Self Reliance Group (SRG)	208	-
07	Provide training and input support to Rohingya and host community for vertical and roof top vegetable gardening	2600	-
08	Facilitate families to implement FDP	500	2500
09	Basic Principle of Business Development training women group	612	-
10	Training arranged on cow, goat, sheep and poultry rearing	387	-
11	Arrange Village Group Meeting	893	1040
12	Arrange Farmer's group meeting	530	765
13	Small business Management training	225	-
14	Kitchen Gardening training	612	-
15	Arrange life skills/soft skills training for youth	428	910
16	Introduce savings scheme at producer groups	18	-
17	Arrange business management training for youths	210	-
18	Arrange training on entrepreneurship development for youths	45	70
19	Organise Pilot mentorship, internship and apprenticeship	15	25



20	Orientation on ZWM & i-SME for Dairy Enterprises (DE)	125	185
21	Provide certified vocational /entrepreneurship training to youths	215	145
22	Start up support for demonstrating integrated farming for sustainable and viable agri. Business	10	8
23	Organize producer group and link with different market / value chain actors	5	30
24	Introduce savings scheme at producers group level	18	-
25	Facilitate POs to established Rural Resource Center (RRC)	6	
26	Training on OFSP vine production and nursery management for farmers	150	30
27	Training on improved production technology of Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP)	385	588
28	OFSP vine distribution among farmers	3884	588

Case Story

'I am on the Way to Defeat Poverty'- Tasmin Ara

'I live with my husband and two children at the village of Nayapara, Hnila in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar district. My husband is a day labor and only the bread earner of our family. He used to earn tk. 500-600 per day before Rohingya influx by which we could manage our family expenditure well. But, after Rohingya influx, my husband's earning reduced to less than tk. 300 per day and we were facing difficulties to maintain family cost. In this circumstance, I was selected as a beneficiary of GUK's "Strengthening resilience and food security of Rohingya refugees and host communities in Bangladesh Cox's Bazar; Teknaf Upazilla" project. Then in July 2020, I received 2 days long training on homestead vegetable gardening and also received vegetable seeds from the project. Afterwards, I prepared my 5 decimal of land at my homestead for vegetable gardening using the knowledge learnt from the training. Food Security & Livelihood Officer of GUK facilitated regularly in vegetable cultivation.



I cultivated Sweet Pumpkin, Brinjal, Lady's Finger, Bean and some other vegetables and earned more than tk. 35,000 till October, 2020 after fulfilling my family needs. We are now very much happy because we are getting own produced fresh vegetables which is the source of nutrition and also earning money by selling the additional quantity. We are really grateful to GUK for extending this kind of support for poor families like us" says Tasmin Ara.



**Strategic Objective-4: Gender Equality and Women Empowerment**

Gender equality and women empowerment is a major focus area of GUK's interventions. The organisation is working on gender equality and women empowerment issues from its inception. Gender is a cross cutting issue of GUK and it considers different issues by gender lens during designing or implementation any project.

Interventions Implemented Under This Strategic Objective in 2020

Sl #	Project Title	Supported by
01	Community Engagement in GBV response and prevention in Cox's Bazar for Rohingya and host community	UNFPA
02	Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning- REE-CALL-2021	Oxfam-GB
03	Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Address Gender Based Violence and Build Community Resilience to Adopt Climate Change	Manusher Jonno Foundation
04	Women Led Community Centre	UNFPA & WFP
05	Strengthening Access to Multi-Sectoral Public Services for GBV Survivors in Bangladesh (ASTHA)	UNFPA and Ain o Shalish Kendra
06	Empowering Small holders to Strengthen Local Democratic Governance (KHAMATAYAN)	Christian Aid
07	Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh'	Ain o Salish Kendra

Key Achievements:**Courtyard Sessions**

In this year GUK conducted 1233 courtyard sessions to aware community people on available services for survivors and their rights. A total of 18725 people (Women-14499, Girl-2604, Men-1110, Boy-512) participated in these sessions. The participants have been aware about what to do to prevent COVID-19, Multi-sectoral services for GBV survivors and the Govt. helpline numbers through these sessions.

Capacity Development Training and Sessions for Thematic Group

There are 131 different thematic groups (women, girls, men, boys) formed both in Rohingya and host community under 'Community Engagement in GBV response and prevention in Cox's Bazar for Rohingya and host community' project. Purpose of formation of these thematic groups to involve community people in GBV prevention activities. Capacity building training and sessions are conducted for the groups members which include gender equality, life skill, GBV prevention and response, disaster preparedness and early working among community members. development trainings and community sessions conducted on gender equality, life skill, GBV prevention and response, disaster preparedness and early working among community members. In the year of 2020 104 batch training organised and 2479 sessions conducted for 2620 group members.

Arranged Radio Programming

To aware and prevent Gender Based Violence (GBV), two radio program broadcasted on GBV in this year. One is drama and another one is magazine program. Program broadcasted for both Rohingya and Host communities.

Capacity Development of Community Volunteers and Community Activists on PSEA

To increase knowledge on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) for humanitarian

workers, capacity development training for Community Volunteers and Community Activist conducted. Total 200 female community volunteers received the training. After receiving the training they have been confident to prevent themselves from sexual exploitation and abuse.

Capacity Development of Project Staff on PSEA

To ensure the accountability towards the community in prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, GUK organized training for project staff. total 47 (female-29, male-18) staff members received the training. Through this training staff members have attained a clear concept about sexual violation, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and know about PSEA guidance. Now, they are more aware about PSEA guidance and maintaining work considering this issue.

Organised Capacity Development Training on SASA! Together

In this reporting period, GUK organized 03 batches capacity development training on SASA! Together for humanitarian NGO staff in Cox's Bazar. The Specific objective of the training was to enhance the knowledge and skills on SASA! Together for smooth and quality implementation of SASA! Together community mobilization approach to prevent violence against women. Total 74 participants from CARE Bangladesh, Mukti Cox's Bazar and GUK participated in these training which were facilitated by GBV Social Mobilization Specialist of UNFPA.

Activities Performed

Sl #	Facts	2020	2019
01	Arrange linkage meeting with UP gender equality related adhoc committee and gender equality focal persons	352	-
02	Orient gender equality focal persons on gender equality issues, role and responsibilities.	250	-
03	Facilitate SRGs and POs to select focal person of Gender equality focal persons	250	-
04	Leadership development training	612	-
05	Rights & Entitlement training	612	-
06	Gender and development training	612	-
07	Organize leadership training for PO/Ward Committee leaders	84	-
08	Stopped Child Marriage by the NNPC and volunteers	41	75
09	Conducted GBV Awareness Sessions	760	-
10	Conducting Psychosocial Sessions	734	-
11	Referral to other service delivery centers (Medical Services, Site Management, CIC, UP, Others)	2216	-
12	Conduct GBV Awareness Sessions in Thematic Working Group	13010	8061
13	Outreach Referral of concerned beneficiaries to other service delivery centers	829	-
14	Training on SASA method to ensure GBV prevention	90	46
15	Provide capacity building training to community activists to implement SASA methods to prevent GBV at community settings	2620	-
16	Conduct community-based GBV prevention activities to reduce gender-based violence in the family and increase GBV services	48	-
17	Conduct community courtyard session to aware community on available services for survivors and their rights	1233	3960
18	Family based online awareness session through mobile loud speaker	2392	-
19	Tea stall awareness meeting on GBV	87	92



20	Group Based awareness session by Youth group for Men & Boy engagement to prevent GBV	99	-
21	Building partnership with the NNPC and village police in raising community awareness through miking at union level	46	-
22	GBV service and mental health related awareness through local cable network	23	-
23	Discussion meeting with adolescents and youth on GBV issues to aware their roles and responsibilities at upazila level	3	3
24	Meeting with NNPC at district, upazila and union level	26	64
25	Women and girls received support through WHD at court and police stations	1554	1224
26	Conducted courtyard session to aware community on available services for survivors and their rights	1233	1639
27	Training organised for youth capacity development on Leadership, Gender, Diversity and Equality	75	30

Case Story

Moumita Stopped Her Own Child Marriage

Moumita (pseudonym), a teenage girl from Subgram Union of Bogura sadar upazila. She dreams to be a nurse and to serve people. To make her dream true she was very attentive in her studies. But Moumita's poor father was not interested in her education. Ever since she was in eighth grade, her parents have been thinking of marrying her. After hearing this, she told her parents that she would not get married now. But her parents did not care. One day in the evening, they secretly arranged her marriage. Listening to this, Moumita can't think what to do. On the one hand, the marriage was being arranged at home, on the other hand, Moumita was planning to stop her marriage anyway. Then Moumita could remember the video show in her school organized by GUK implemented 'Strengthening Access to Multi-Sectoral Public Services for GBV Survivors in Bangladesh (ASTHA)' Project. The video showed the harmful features of child marriage and what to do to prevent child marriage. Helpline numbers and ASTHA project staff numbers were also disseminated through the video. Moumita wrote down those numbers in her notebook at that time. She came out of home at 9:00 pm and phoned the Case Worker of ASTHA project from a nearby shop.



On the one hand, the marriage was being arranged at home, on the other hand, Moumita was planning to stop her marriage anyway. Then Moumita could remember the video show in her school organized by GUK implemented 'Strengthening Access to Multi-Sectoral Public Services for GBV Survivors in Bangladesh (ASTHA)' Project. The video showed the harmful features of child marriage and what to do to prevent child marriage. Helpline numbers and ASTHA project staff numbers were also disseminated through the video. Moumita wrote down those numbers in her notebook at that time. She came out of home at 9:00 pm and phoned the Case Worker of ASTHA project from a nearby shop.

The Case Worker informed the Project Coordinator about the matter. The Project Coordinator suggested Moumita to make a phone call to the helpline numbers that showed by the video for preventing the marriage. Moumita then went back home and told her parents to stop the marriage and if they do not stop, she would call UNO. Hearing this, her parents were frightened and apologized to the boy's parents and stopped the marriage. Moumita is now very happy as the marriage has been stopped. Strong confidence gave her strength to stop her child marriage. She is now studying attentively and dreaming to do a job and help her family. She is also committed to work for stopping child marriage in her locality as well.



Strategic Objective-5: Community Resilience on Disaster Management Focusing Climate Change Interventions Implemented Under This Strategic Objective in 2020

SI #	Project Title	Supported by
01	Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning (REE-CALL)-2021	Oxfam GB
02	Trans boundary River for Our Sustainable Advancement (TROSA)	Oxfam GB
03	Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Address Gender Based Violence and Build Community Resilience to Adopt Climate Change	Manusher Jonno Foundation
04	Strengthening Community Resilience through Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management (DiDRM) in Urban and Rural areas in Bangladesh	CBM & CDD
05	Emergency Life-saving Shelter Assistance through Shelter Cash Grant and Non-Food Items for Flood Affected People	UNDP
06	Provision of WASH and child protection supports to the flood affected people amidst COVID pandemic in Kurigram district during 2020	UNICEF
07	COVID-19 Response in Bangladesh	Oxfam GB
08	Emergency food assistance for people live on daily income and become jobless due to current lock down in Gaibandha district	TESCO International Sourcing Ltd.
09	COVID-19 Act Appeal	ICCO Part of Cordaid
10	Strengthening resilience and food security of Rohingya refugees and host communities in Teknaf, Cox's Bazar	Solidar Suisse
11	Emergency Response to the Cyclone Amphan affected people in Satkhira district, Bangladesh	AWO International
12	Promoting Resilience, Opportunities and Socio-Economic Empowerment of migrants/climate displaced communities (PROSPERITY) in Bangladesh	AWO International-BMZ

Case Story

I am Shapla Begum from the village of Char Ratanpur under Uria union in Fulchari upazila of Gaibandha district. I was married in 2007 with Fuad Mia, a day labour in the same village when I was only 14 years old. We had to shift our houses 7 times due to river erosion in last 14 years. We were living struggling with river erosion and flood disaster as well as poverty. My husband sometimes used to go outside in search of work. We were facing much difficulty to maintain family expenditure with my husband's limited income. We had limited skills to cope with disasters. In this circumstance, I was selected as a participant of GUK implemented 'Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Address Gender Based Violence and Build Community Resilience to Adopt Climate



Change' project and involved with the 'Gandharaj Women Group' formed by the project in 2017. Then I participated in group meetings regularly and received different trainings including income generating activities arranged by the project which was helpful to increase my knowledge and skills.

Then I took loan of tk. 6,000.00 from the emergency IGA fund managed by the group and bought two goats and cultivated vegetables. Now I have 6 goats. Later, I took loan of tk. 7,000.00 and using my skills gained from the trainings, I cultivated sweet pumpkins and chilli on sandy char in a disaster tolerant manner. I have already earned tk. 15,000.00 by selling sweet pumpkins and chilli after meeting the nutritional needs of our family. I believe that I would be able to earn more tk. 40,000.00 which will be a great support for my family. We are now in the way to overcome poverty. My acceptance in the family as well as in the society has increased.

I am deeply gratitude to GUK for supporting us to find out the way for reducing poverty.'

Key Achievements:

Adaptation Fair

Adaptation fair arranged at the premises of Char Kabilpur government primary school in Uria union of Fulchari upazila of Gaibandha district. Objective of this fair is to community mobilization and awareness raising on climate change adaptation and demonstrate climate adaptive technologies for people living in the riverine areas. Project participants from Uria and Fazlupur union demonstrated cluster village, homestead gardening, disaster tolerant crop variety, climate adaptation crops, and new agriculture technologies. There was also a stall from Fulchhari Upazila agriculture department. Officials from different government departments including livestock and agriculture, local government representatives and community people were attended in the fair.

Community Capacity Building on CCA and CBCA

In this reporting period GUK organised two days long training on Disaster Management and awareness building on CCA and CBCA. Total 50 CBO members (female-31 and male-19) have received the training which mainly focused on type and causes of disaster, impact, how to get prepare at community and family level, how to access & disseminate early warning, to whom communicate for information and services. As a result of this training knowledge of the community people enhanced and participants were able to better adapt with prolonged floods in 2020 and saved their livestock and livelihood.

Organised Village Group Meeting on CC and DRR

Meetings on flood preparedness, recovery, mitigation, climate change adaptation, climate related gender & GBV, disaster and our responsibility, climate resilient IGA activities, services from Govt. service providers, gender based violence during disaster and our responsibilities, women participation in different standing committees of Union praised & Upazila praised etc and COVID -19 awareness are conducted at village group level. Total 450 meetings were organised during this reporting period.



**Organised Adaptation Fair at Union Level for Community Mobilization and Awareness Raising**

Adaptation fair was organised at Uria & Fazlupur unions in Fulchari upazila under Gaibandha district for community mobilization and awareness raising on climate change adaptation and climate adaptive agriculture practices by the 'Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Address Gender Based Violence and Build Community Resilience to Adopt Climate Change' Project. Farmers' Groups formed by the Project demonstrated their climate adaptive agriculture activities in the fair. Community people, union parishad representatives and government officials from agriculture, livestock, social services and women & children welfare department were present in the fair. Government officials disseminated information about their services to the community in the fair. Around 300 people gathered in the event.

Training Organised on GBV Related to Climate Change and Disaster for Potential Women Leaders

In this reporting period three days long training on Gender Based Violence (GBV) related to climate change and disaster organised in Uria Union and Fuzlupur unions under Fulchai upazila of Gaibandha district. Discussion on women rights, leadership, gender, human Rights, GBV, Gender in Emergencies, domestic violence etc. held in these trainings. Total 60 potential women leaders from the community received the training in two batches. Knowledge of the participants on the issues increased through the training and they are committed to play active role in the society to reduce vulnerabilities.

Conduct Participatory Community Risk & Vulnerability Assessment

Total 10 meetings on Participatory Community Risk & Vulnerability Assessment (PVCA) were conducted in this reporting year. A total of 320 participants from the community participated in these meeting. Disaster risks and vulnerability of the communities identified through participatory discussion and group work. Action plan and seasonal plan are prepared through these meetings and presented to the respective Union Parishads to consider these for reducing disaster risks and vulnerability.

Operation of Child Protection Hub after Flood

GUK established and operated a total of 08 Child Friendly Spaces/HUBs in Kurigram sadar and Chilmari upazila of Kurigram district. Total 9098 flood affected children were involved with these HUBs. The children get important information about protection and health hygiene. The kids get information how to assure safety from snake biting, drowning and health hazards emerging waterborne diseases during floods. Community volunteers were deployed to perform day to day activities in the HUBs to make the children conscious about safety, causes of risks, and many other issues regarding safety in the time of flood, earthquake, storm, and oppression. The importance of using mask, hand washing and uses of hand sanitizer discussed and demonstrated. Due to COVID-19 pandemic the children were depressed. So, there were arrangement of different playing materials in the Hubs for their recreation.

Child Case Management

Vulnerable, underprivileged and extremely poverty stricken 670 children identified through survey and validation by three times monitoring. Considering severity of flood impact, extreme poverty, and women headed, children with disabilities, depressed children for parent's separation, abused etc. total 500 children were listed for case management under 'Provision of WASH and child protection supports to the flood affected people amidst COVID pandemic in Kurigram district during 2020' project. These children are provided educational materials, warm clothes for winter, treatment support and umbrella, shoes, assistive device, spectacles, mattress and fishing net. In addition, 51 children were referred to hospitals and community clinics for treatment.

Community Awareness Meeting

Total 160 community awareness meeting on different issues organised by 'Provision of WASH and child protection supports to the flood affected people amidst COVID pandemic in Kurigram district during 2020' project. These meetings were arranged at Mother group, Father group, Couple

group where total 1600 community people got awareness messages about child protection, child exploitation and abuse against children. The participants have been aware about causes and remedy measures on child torture, oppression, and harmful behavior against children. Due to COVID-19 pandemic participants in each meeting was limited to 10.

Agriculture Labor Sent to Different District for Harvesting Boro Paddy

In collaboration of Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK), Gaibandha District administration, District police and Department of Agriculture Extension arranged to send agriculture labor in Sunamganj, Gazipur, Cumilla, Bogura, Natore and Naogaon districts following the instruction of honorable prime minister to meet up the crisis of agriculture labor for harvesting Boro paddy. A total of 1477 labor were sent through this initiative. Consequently, the farmers of that areas got the opportunity to harvest their paddy in right time, on the other hand, temporary employment opportunity was created for agriculture labor during the pandemic situation.

Activities Performed

Sl #	Facts	2020	2019
01	Facilitate SRGs and POs to select focal person for environment and climate change	250	-
02	Orientation on environment and climate change including DRR	250	-
03	Linkage meeting with UP environment and CC adhoc committee	352	-
04	Organized orientation on effect of climate change and adaptation	250	-
05	Training on emergency response & rescue for community volunteer	05	02
06	Training on CCA & DRR, Gender & GBV, Leadership for group leaders	08	09
07	Participatory community risk & vulnerability assessment	10	18
08	Advocacy with UDMC and UzDMC to incorporate community Risk Reduction Action Planned activities in their own contingency plan	08	06
09	Develop community mechanism for early warning system	07	07
10	Training of community/potential leaders on gender base violence related to climate change impact and disaster	02	04
11	Adaptation fair at union level for mobilization and Awareness raising	02	02
12	Issue based campaign on CC & Gender in disaster	01	04
13	Promote ecosystem based plantation at community place	400	300
14	Piloting climate resilient composite agriculture model farm (Duck-fish-vegetable) /establish demo plot	01	01
15	Support HHs for market oriented early summer & winter climate resilient vegetable cultivation	600	300
16	Building of cluster villages	01	06
17	Training of UDMC and UzDMC on DRR, CCA and Gender in disaster	01	02
18	Training on DRR, CCA and Gender in disaster for UDMC and UzDMC members	01	02
19	Installation of Bill Board with Awareness message	16	-
20	Nodi Baithak organized	62	45
21	Community led River Bank erosion management initiatives	11	6
22	Climate change adaptation & Dis. Risk Reduction training	612	-
23	Materials distributed among Community Youth Volunteers for Emergency (Gumboot, Torch, Raincoat, Bag, masks, sanitizer etc.)	144	-
24	Organised community level meeting and awareness sessions on Child Protection	160	-



Strategic Objective-6: Health, Nutrition and WASH

Case Story

Double Platform Tube Well- A Source of Safe Water for Flood Affected People

People living in the riverine areas of Gaibandha and Kurigram districts have to experience floods almost every year. During floods they face immense difficulties due to scarcity of safe water as almost all water points are inundated by flood water. They have to use unsafe water for various purposes including drinking and household works during floods. Consequently, they suffer from different water borne diseases. Considering this issue, GUK has installed double platform tube wells through different project interventions to ease the sufferings of the flood affected populations.



More than 300 double platform tube wells have been installed in different community places of flood prone areas of Gaibandha and Kurigram districts. During dry season, heads of these tube wells are set on the lower face and during flood, these are set on the upper face. As a result, affected people from the surrounding areas can collect safe water from these tube wells during flood and normal time as well.

Sajeda Begum, from the village of Pepulia at Fulchari union of Fulchari upazila in Gaibandha district says, "Once we had to use dirty water during floods and suffered from various diseases. But, now we are getting safe water round the year from double platform tube well installed by GUK. Now we are feeling safe from water born diseases".

Interventions Implemented Under This Strategic Objective in 2020

Sl #	Project Title	Supported by
01	Provision of WASH and child protection supports to the flood affected people amidst COVID pandemic in Kurigram district during 2020	UNICEF
02	Strengthening Community Resilience through Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management (SCRDiDRM) in Urban and Rural areas in Bangladesh	CBM & CDD
03	Resilience through Economic Empowerment, Climate Adaptation, Leadership and Learning (REE-CALL-2021)	Oxfam GB
04	COVID-19 Act Appeal	ICCO Part of Cordaid
05	Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Address Gender Based Violence and Build Community Resilience to Adopt Climate Change	Manusher Jonno Foundation
06	COVID-19 Response in Bangladesh	Oxfam GB



Key Achievements:

Awareness Raising Initiatives Considering COVID-19

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) undertook awareness raising initiatives on COVID-19 since 20th of March. In the reporting year, the organization reached over 1000000 people with the awareness message in its working districts through distribution of leaflets, local newspaper, online TV and mike announcement, demonstration on sneezing and hand washing system.

Hand Washing Points/Stations Established

With the purpose to contain the spread of COVID-19, total 75 permanent Hand Washing Points/stations have been installed at different public places including district social service office, Police stations, upazila land office, Banks and market places in Gaibandha, Kurigram and Cox's Bazar districts. In addition, total 20 temporary Hand Washing Points/stations were established and operated by GUK own initiatives.

Distribution of Food Items Considering Child Nutrition

Considering child nutrition, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) distributed food items (rice, pulse/dal, potato, sugar, suji, salt and soya bean oil among 2270 students' households of GUK operated 23 Anandalok Community primary schools in Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Panchagarh and Kustia districts. Besides, Vitamin-A enriched & Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato have been distributed among 400 families having school going as well as under-5 children. Moreover, food items have been distributed among 5049 vulnerable households in collaboration with different donor agencies and GUK own initiatives.

Distribution of Hygiene Materials

The organisation has distributed hygiene materials (Bucket, bathing soap, detergent powder, sanitary cloth/napkin, masks, hand sanitiser etc.) among 10550 poor households in Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Panchagarh, Kushtia, Cox's Bazar and Satkhira districts with the purpose to prevent the spread of Corona virus.

Organize Health Camp

GUK organize free of cost health camps for its Livelihood Microfinance Programme's members and their family members on regular basis. Health camps are conducted by GUK Diagnostic & Physiotherapy Centre. In 2020, total 8 such health camps are organized. Moreover, this year a total of 26 health camps were organized for children of GUK operated Community Anandalok primary schools and they are provided with prescription medicine support free of cost. In some cases, children are referred for better treatment. In addition, the organisation arranged 2 health camps at Rohigyna camps in Cox's Bazar in collaboration with Spreeha Bangladesh where around 1500 people are provided with treatment and medicine support.

Conduction of Health and Hygiene Sessions Considering Corona Virus

With the purpose to make people aware on health and hygiene issues considering highly infectious Corona virus, the Organisation organized 9791 sessions on health & hygiene for project participants in different working locations in 2020. Discussions on personal health & hygiene including hand washing procedure mask wearing, social distancing, menstruation, reproductive health, care of lactating & pregnant mother, proper use of WASH hygiene kits etc. are held during these sessions.



Strategic Objective-7: Good Governance and Democratic Environment

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) works with local administration, Local Government Institutions (LGIs), government and non-government service providing Organisations through advocacy, motivation and civic education with the aim to establish good governance and democratic environment. Government officials and local government representatives are engaged with its field level activities to ensure transparency and accountability.

Interventions Implemented Under This Strategic Objective in 2020

Sl #	Project Title	Supported by
01	Trans boundary River for Our Sustainable Advancement (TROSA)	Oxfam GB
02	Strengthening Civil Society and Public Institutions to Address Gender Based Violence and Build Community Resilience to Adopt Climate Change	Manusher Jonno Foundation
03	Strengthening Community Resilience through Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Management (SCRDiDRM) in Urban and Rural areas in Bangladesh	CBM & CDD
04	Strengthening Democracy by Promoting Human Rights Culture in Bangladesh'	Ain o Shalish Kendra
05	Empowering Samall holders to Strengthen Local Democratic Governance (KHAMATAYAN)	Christian Aid
06	Socio Economic Empowerment with Dignity & Sustainability (SEEDS)	STROMME Foundation
07	Strengthening Partnership Convening & Convincing (SPCC)- Pathway-3	Helvetas Intercooperation

Key Achievements:

Election of Upazila Agricultural Producers Association (UAPA)

Upazila Agricultural Producers Association elections held through formal democratic election process in seven upazilas (Gaibandha Sadar, Fulchuri, Sundarganj, Saghata, Gobindhaganj under Gaibandha district and Rawmari and Rajibpur upazila under Kurigram district) in arrangement by 'Empowering Smallholders to Strengthen Local Democratic Governance (KHAMATAYAN)' Project. There are 300 Agriculture Producers Groups consisting of 9000 members in these seven upazila formed by the project. Total 7890 members of these groups casted their vote to elect President, Vice Presidents-2, Secretary, Joint Secretary, treasurer, Organising Secretary, Office Secretary and Executive members-3 for each association. The elected UAPA representatives will act on behalf of agriculture producer groups so that they get appropriate services from different service providers and get fair prices of their products.

Election of District Agricultural Producers Association (DAPA)

District Agricultural Producers Association elections were organised through formal democratic election process by the 'Empowering Smallholders to Strengthen Local Democratic Governance (KHAMATAYAN)' Project. Two DAPA have been formed in Gaibandha and Kurigram districts respectively. The DAPA members (President, Vice Presidents-2, Secretary, Joint Secretary, treasurer, Organising Secretary, Office Secretary and Executive members-3) are elected by the votes of President and Secretary of 300 Agriculture Producer Groups. The DAPAs will be responsible for ensuring relevant services from service providing organisations for marginal farmers in coordination with the UAPA.



Organised Public Meeting

With the purpose to make common people aware about their rights and sensitize respective government officials/departments so that people can get proper services, the organisation arranges public meeting at community level. Respective government officials, local government representatives and community people participate in these meeting events actively where officials brief about their services through question-answer sessions directly to the community people. In the year of 2020, 2 public meeting events arranged where around 500 people participated.

Farmers Dialogue/ Gathering

Two Farmers Dialogue organised in 2020 at Uria, Fuzlupur, Kamarjani and Mollarchar unions under Fulchari and Gaibandha sador upazilla. Government officials from agriculture, livestock, social welfare, women welfare, LGIs departments attended in these dialogue. Officials from agriculture and livestock department answered questions raised by participated farmers about their services .

Organised Legal Camps

GUK organises legal camps with the aim to provide legal advice/support to poor people who become sufferer of various type of violence. The legal camps also aims to raise awareness on different issues like domestic violence, early marriage, gender based violence etc. In the reporting year total 9 legal camps were arranged and a total of 937 (female-571, male-366) people participated in these events.

Facilitation in Organising Arbitration (Salish)

With the aim to ensure social justice for disadvantaged poor men and women, the Organisation facilitates human rights groups in organising ideal arbitration (salish) at community level. A total of 65 Adarsho Salish were arranged in 2020 where 51 complaints are settled and the rest 14 sufferers are linked with government legal aid support.

Formation of Human Rights Groups

The organisation has formed and revitalized different human rights groups at union and upazila level in Gaibandha district. These are Manobadhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad, Manobadhikar Nari Samaj, Manobadhikar Natto Parisha, Manobadhikar Lawyers Forum, School Theatre Group, Samajik Uddakta Dal etc. Members of these human rights groups are actively playing significant role for human rights protection. Regular meetings are arranged with members of these human rights groups. In the year of 2020, a total of 52 meetings arranged where discussion on human rights situation, child marriage, divorce, dowry, violence, day observation, human chain & rally, cooperation to sufferer etc. are held. ,



Memorandum Submission after Fact Finding on Human Rights Violation

A human rights task force has been formed by GUK in Gaibandha district which is working for fact finding on human rights violation incidents. The task force collect information and submit memorandum to concern authority if any incident of violence occurs in the catchment area so that the sufferer gets justice. In the year of 2020, upon fact finding the task force submitted 8 memorandums to local administration, police administration and other service providers on different incidents.

Activities Performed

Sl #	Facts	2020	2019
01	Workshop organized	11	19
02	Training for Local Government representatives on client-centered services	94	
03	Forming Knowledge sharing Platforms for Small holder Farmers Group	7	-
04	Support LA service providers and research institutes to disseminate improved seed varieties	28	-
05	Formation of Upazila Agriculture Producers Association (UAPA) through democratic process	07	-
06	Formation of District Agriculture Producers Association (DAPA) through democratic process	02	-
07	Policy consultation with Local Actors (LAs) and farmers led CSOs on priority issues at Upazila Level	07	-
08	Public meeting organised	2	5
09	Legal aid camp organised	9	10
10	Facilitated to organize Adarsho Salish	65	34
11	Fact finding and memorandum submission on human rights violation	8	6
12	Facilitated GBV survivors to file case through district legal aid office	55	72
13	Facilitated GBV survivors to file case with police station	5	12
14	Arranged public meeting	2	3
15	Facilitation of Community Score Card (CSC)	10	10
16	Workshop to Sensitize local government bodies on the eligibility (criteria) and related laws for entitlement of safety net programs	51	-
17	Facilitate to organise workshop with duty bearers and market actors including right holders/Pos for service and its access	60	-
18	Facilitate to People's Organisations (POs) for developing micro plan focusing advocacy and social issues	42	-
19	Arrange linkage meeting with adhoc committee of UP to establish entitlement of PWDs	144	-
20	Select anti-corruption focal persons in Self Reliance Groups (SRGs) and People's Organisations (POs)	250	-
21	Trained anti-corruption focal persons on corruption issues and remedies	250	-
22	Arrange coordination meeting with UP level ad-hoc committee on anti-corruption and focal persons	352	-



Strategic Objective -8: Action Research And Innovation

To identify new ideas, scope of suitable and viable way of development approaches for development interventions, Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) undertakes research considering organization's long-term working experience with marginalized people. The organisation has already accomplished several research projects in collaboration with different renowned research institutes and universities.

So far, GUK Accomplished the following Research Projects:

1. The demand for impacts of solar Lamps in Bangladesh
2. Mobile Banking and Remittance among Migrant Workers: Experimental Evidence from Bangladesh
3. The Impact of Micro Credit Repayment Rules on Seasonal Migration and Loan Repayment during the Agricultural Lean Season- A Randomized Experiment in Bangladesh
4. Ghat Research Project
5. Reducing Extreme Poverty through Skill Training for Industry Job Placement: The Case of RMG in Bangladesh
6. Ultra Poverty Reduction (Char Research) project
7. Micro-credit for Share-Croppers (Credit for Farming)
8. Solar Boat Charged Project
9. Freelancing research project

Research Partners:

- New York University
- Tokyo University
- University of Southampton, UK
- Institute of Developing Economies (IDE)-JETRO, Japan
- IDRC, Canada
- South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM)
- Oxford University

Research Publication:

"Seasonality and Microcredit: The Case of Northern Bangladesh" (a research book) has been published by internationally renowned publisher i.e. Springer. Web-link: <http://www.springer.com/economics/development/book/978-4-431-55009-9>

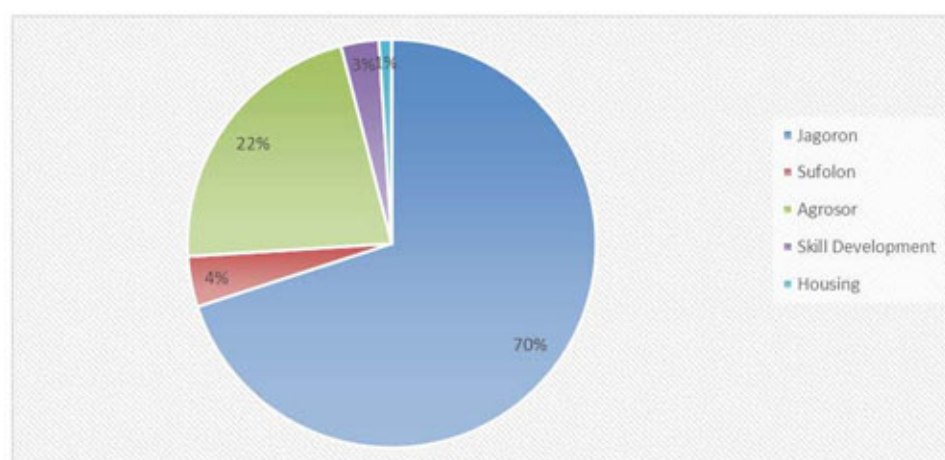


Micro Finance & Economic Empowerment:

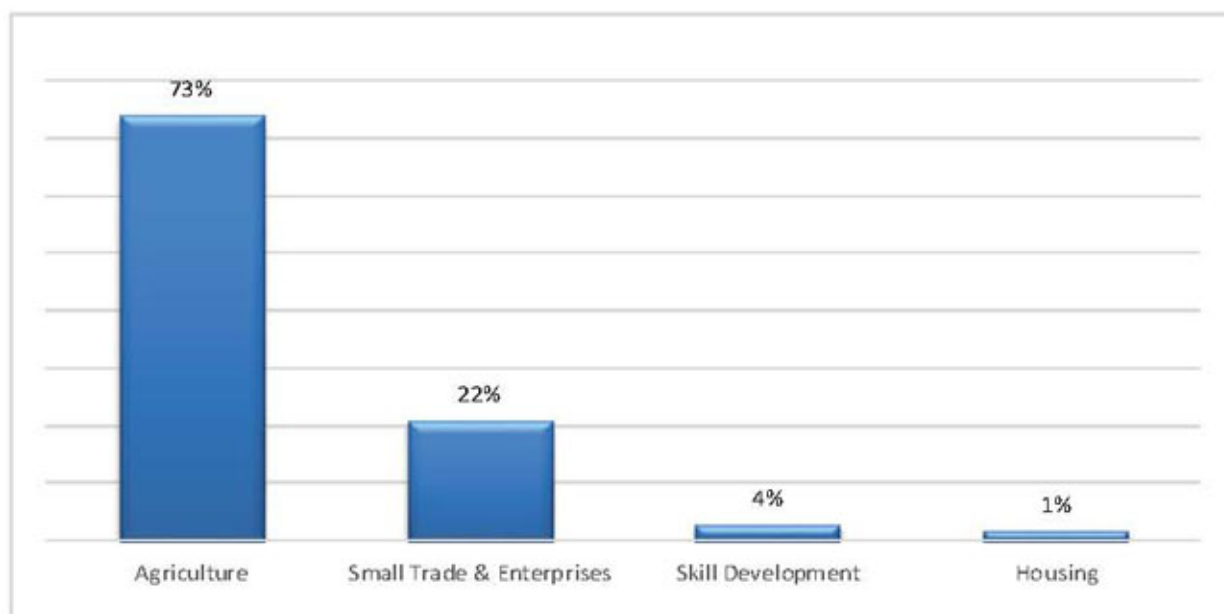
GUK is operating Livelihood Microfinance Programme (LMP) for economic empowerment of disadvantaged people especially women through inclusive financing. It is the core programme of the Organization. It was initiated in line with other development projects with the aim of bringing sustainable development in the lives of women and disadvantaged. Currently, the LMP is being operated in 8 districts under Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions through its 53 outlets. Around 60500 households are currently involved with this programme and among them 52552 households have received loan support for different income generation activities. GUK LMP provides three types of financing options for its group members. These are 1. *Jagoron (Awakening)*, 2. *Agrosor (Move forward- a programme for enterprise development)* and 3. *Sufolon (Promoting livestock and agriculture)*. A total of BDT 723,47,21,000.00 have been disbursed as loan under above three components so far. In addition, GUK also provide loan for house construction to its group members and skills development loan to trained youths for self-employment.

- **Jagoron** is the name of a credit instrument of GUK LMP to initiate household based enterprise development. GUK LMP extended its financial services for the rural poor through this programme from 1991. Under this programme, borrowers are encouraged to undertake family-based income generating activities. Major sectors covered under Jagoron are crops, livestock and small trade. Duration of this type of loan is 1 year and borrowers can repay by weekly/monthly installment.
- **Agrosor** is an effort to develop Micro Enterprise and contribute to employment generation and economic development. The programme was developed to extend its financial services to the members who are undertaking economic activities that require bigger amount of capital. Borrowers can take loan for the maximum period of 1.5 years and repay by weekly/monthly installment.
- **Sufolon** is the seasonal agriculture loan product which is to provide support for different agricultural activities mainly for crop cultivation and beef fattening. The highest loan ceiling is 75,000 taka. Maximum duration of the seasonal agriculture loan is 6 months and the farmers repay the total loan amount by a single installment after harvesting the crops/selling the product. The provision of the loan repayment in a single installment after the sale of the product has made it very popular among the borrowers. So far, a total of 20057 marginal farmers have received agriculture loan amounting taka 97,81,92,000.00 through Sufolon.

Product-wise Loan Disbursement in 2020



Sector-wise Loan Disbursement in 2020:



Working Area:

Sl. No.	District	Sub-district/Upazila
01	Gaibandha	Fulchari, Saghata, Gaibandha Sadar, Sundarganj, Palashbari, Gobindaganj
02	Rangpur	Rangpur Sadar, Mithapukur
03	Kurigram	Kurigram Sadar, Rajibpur, Rowmari, Razarhat
04	Lalmonirhat	Lalmonirhat Sadar, Aditmari
05	Nilphamari	Nilphamari Sadar, Syedpur, Domar
06	Dinajpur	Dinajpur Sadar, Ghoraghat, Fulbari, Nowabganj, Birampur, Birol, Chiribandar, Hakimpur
07	Bogura	Bogura Sadar, Shibganj
08	Joypurhat	Joypurhat Sadar, Akkelpur, Panchbibi

Presently, 239 unions and 1207 villages are covering within above working areas with 53 branches/ outlets and 381 staff members.

Loan Information:

Number of group	3371
Number of group members	60500
Number of borrowers	52552
Total loan outstanding	157.38 Crore
Total saving balance	59.11 Crore

Progress Status in 2020:

New unions covered	27
Weekly group meeting held	69225
Weekly staffs meeting	1727 (including Virtual)
Monthly coordination meeting	12 (including Virtual)
All staffs meeting	02 (Virtual)
Annual planning meeting	01 (Virtual)
New staffs recruited	72
New Groups formed	181
New members	4432
Number of new borrowers	3012

Partnership with Financial Institutions:

GUK has partnership with the following banks and institutions which are providing financial support for its microfinance programme.

- Mutual Trust Bank Ltd.
- South Bangla Agriculture & Commerce Bank Ltd.
- Midland Bank Ltd.
- NRB Global Bank Ltd.
- NRB Bank Ltd.
- Standard Bank Ltd.
- ONE Bank Ltd.
- Jamuna Bank Ltd.
- Southeast Bank Ltd.
- Mercantile Bank Ltd.
- Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
- Inclusive Home Solution Ltd.
- IPDC Finance Ltd.



Case Story

A Tale of Struggling with Poverty

Shahin Mia (46), the 2nd child of late Nuruzzaman from the Paikpara village of Sadar upazila of Rangpur district. Late Nuruzzaman was a mason and it was very difficult for him to maintain the family of 12 members with his limited income. So, he could not make his children educated. Shahin started to learn tailoring in a shop just after completing grade three. Shahin Mia worked as a tailor in others shop for long days. He got married at the age of 23. Shahin Mia started to dream to have a own tailoring shop. Afterwards, he rented a small shop in the market adjacent to Binodpur Railgate in Rangpur and started tailoring. His wife used to help him. Shaheen's new path begins. In the meantime, shahin becomes father of one daughter and two sons. He already has given marry to his daughter. He could not study due to poverty but he is determined to educate his sons. His elder son has already completed secondary education and the younger son completed primary education.



Once Shahin Mia was thinking to start a clothing business beside of tailoring. But he did not have required money for that. In this circumstance, he came to know about GUK's loan facilities. Then contacted with GUK staff and took loan of tk. 20,000.00 from Rangpur branch in 2017 to invest his tailoring business. start the business. Afterwards, he took loan again amounting tk. 30,000.00 by which he bought new sewing machine and started clothing business in 2018. After repaying the loan he again took tk. 80,000.00 and bought sewing machines as well as expanded the clothing business. Once the loan is repaid, he again took tk. 100,000.00 and invested in business. At present there are 6 sewing machines at Shahin's shop and alongside his wife, 5 persons are working on contractual basis. Presently, his monthly income is around tk. 30,000.00 from which after repaying installment of loan, he is maintaining his family expenditure very well. His dignity has been increased in the locality. He has plan to expand the business more in future.





Social Business & Enterprises

Gana Unnayan Kendra (GUK) operates some social businesses to make contribution for the better interest of poor people through creating employment opportunities and market linkage to get fair price. These initiatives are also contributing in bringing social changes. The social businesses are:

- (a) GUK Institute of Engineering and Technology (GUKIET)
- (b) Super Tasty Food Products;
- (c) GUK Printers;
- (d) GUK Agro Farm & Nursery;
- (e) GUK Diagnostic & Physiotherapy Centre;
- (f) GUK De-Addiction & Rehabilitation Centre
- (g) Poultry and Dairy farm;
- (h) GUK Media (Daliy Ajker Janagan, Prantik online TV)

Training and Guest Facilities

A training centre has been established adjacent to its head office at Nashratpur, Gaibandha with safe and secured atmosphere. There are 9 training venues, accommodation & refreshment facilities. Training venues are well decorated and equipped with all necessary materials. A total of 300 participants can receive residential training at a time here. Besides, there are 22 AC rooms for guest accommodation, car parking and free WiFi facilities in the training centre.



Development Partners

In partnership with following national and international Organisations, GUK has implemented different development as well as humanitarian in 2020.

- Ministry of Primary & Mass Education, GoB
- Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, GoB
- PKSF
- UNDP
- UNDP-Marico, Sweden Sverige
- UNICEF
- UNFPA
- OXFAM
- NETZ Bangladesh
- ICCO Cooperation
- STROMME Foundation

- Christian Aid-Traidcraft Exchange-EU
- Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD)
- Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)-SIDA
- CDD-CBM
- Solidar Suisse
- International Potato Center (CIP)-DFID
- AWO International
- ASK-UNFPA-Embassy of the Netherlands
- Ain o Shalish Kendra (ASK)
- BSRM
- TESCO International Sourcing Limited
- MATW International Limited
- AWO International-BMZ

Affiliation with Networks/Alliances

National:

- Gaibandha Unnayan Network (GUN)
- Amar Adhikar Foundation
- We Can Alliance
- Disaster Forum
- NIRAPAD (Network for Information, Response and Preparedness Activities on Disaster)
- Governance Coalition
- Association for Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB)
- Election Working Group (EWG)
- National Char Alliance
- Campaign for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods (CSRL)
- National Forum of Organisation Working with Disabilities (NFOWD)
- Right to Food Campaign
- Civil Society Alliance for Scaling Up Nutrition, Bangladesh (CSA for SUN, BD)
- Credit and Development Forum (CDF)
- National Alliance of Humanitarian Actors, Bangladesh (NAHAB)
- START Fund Bangladesh

International:

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC)
- Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) Alliance
- Green Climate Fund
- Banking With The Poor (BWTP) Network, Australia
- Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA)
- The Adaptation Fund NGO Network, Germany
- GenderCC
- World Forum
- SANGAT

PHOTO GALLERY









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